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5 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
6 FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

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8 James Eagle,

9 Plaintiff,

10 v.

11 Bill Alexander Automotive Center, Inc.,

12 Defendant.

No. CV11-1148-PHX-JAT

**ORDER**

13 Pending before the Court are Defendant's Motion for Leave to File Under Seal  
14 (Doc. 60) and Defendant's Amended Motion for Protective Order (Doc. 67). Plaintiff has  
15 filed a response to Defendant's motion for a protective order (Doc. 68), whereby Plaintiff  
16 does not oppose Defendant's motion. Therefore, the Court will grant Defendant's motion  
17 for a protective order. The Court will also grant Defendant's motion for leave to file  
18 under seal for the following reasons.

19 Historically, the public has a right to inspect judicial documents and records.  
20 *Nixon v. Warner Commc'ns, Inc.*, 435 U.S. 589, 597 (1978). However, such a right is not  
21 absolute. Nevertheless, there is a strong presumption in favor of access to judicial  
22 records. A party seeking to seal a judicial record bears the burden of overcoming this  
23 presumption by either meeting the "compelling reasons" standard if the filing is a  
24 dispositive pleading, or the "good cause" standard if the filing is a non-dispositive  
25 pleading. *Kamakana v. City & Cnty. of Honolulu*, 447 F.3d 1172, 1180 (9th Cir. 2006).

26 Defendant requests leave to file six exhibits to their Motion for Summary  
27 Judgment (Doc. 64) under seal. Thus, Defendant must show a compelling reason to seal  
28 the exhibits. Plaintiff has not responded to the motion to seal. Defendant argues that

1 these six exhibits contain information that Defendant treats as confidential. A company's  
2 proprietary information derives its value from the fact that it is not generally available,  
3 thus preserving the company's competitive advantage. *See Elec. Arts, Inc. v. United*  
4 *States Dist. Court*, 298 F. App'x 568, 569 (9th Cir. 2008). If a company's confidential  
5 information is released into the public domain (even accidentally), it may lose its  
6 confidential status, resulting in irremedial harm. *Ruckelshaus v. Monsanto Co.*, 467 U.S.  
7 986, 1002 (1984). Thus, protection of a company's trade secrets or highly confidential  
8 business information constitutes compelling reasons to seal documents submitted as part  
9 of a dispositive motion. *See Ctr. for Food Safety v. Johanns*, 310 F. App'x 964, 965 (9th  
10 Cir. 2009); *Elec. Arts*, 298 F. App'x at 569-70.

11 The exhibits Defendant requests to seal are confidential communications and  
12 internal documents. The Court finds that Defendant has shown that filing this  
13 information in the public record would be harmful to Defendant's competitive advantage  
14 if it were misused. Therefore, compelling reasons exist to file the six exhibits listed in  
15 Defendant's motion under seal.

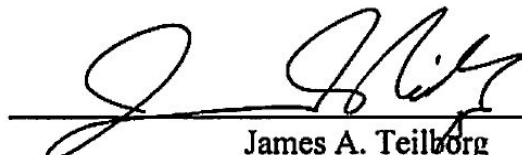
16 Based on the foregoing,

17 **IT IS ORDERED** that Defendant's Motion for Leave to File Under Seal (Doc.  
18 60) is granted.

19 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Defendant's Amended Motion for Protective  
20 Order (Doc. 67) is granted and the protective terms in the motion shall be enforced in this  
21 matter.

22 Dated this 7th day of August, 2013.

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James A. Teilborg  
Senior United States District Judge